

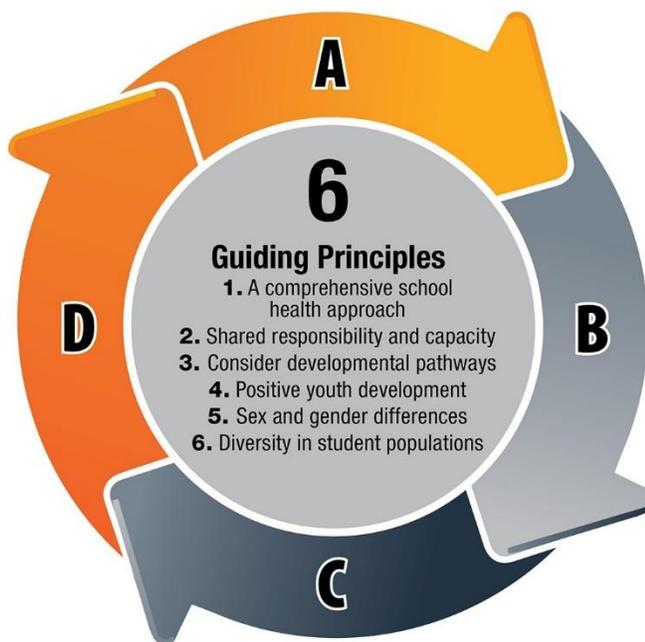


School Standards at a Glance

The 17 school-based standards provide an evidence-informed framework for school health promotion teams and prevention committees to use when planning, implementing or evaluating youth substance abuse prevention initiatives. The standards are based on the best available research of what works in prevention as described in the Canadian Centre on Substance Abuse (CCSA) workbook, *Building on Our Strengths: Canadian Standards for School-based Youth Substance Abuse Prevention*. School Standards at a Glance will help you better understand the standards so you can identify the ones that need to be developed or strengthened in your initiative. It is best used with the *Planning, Self-Assessment and Action Sheet for School-based Prevention Initiatives*. The results of your assessment can be used as a baseline to monitor your initiative's progress in meeting the standards from year to year.

The standards framework can be used by all initiatives, whether they are well developed or are just getting off the ground. Although the standards are organized within a four-phase planning cycle, given that school prevention work is often non-linear by nature, they may be implemented in a different order depending on your particular context. In addition, considering all 17 standards at one time may not be practical; it may be more valuable or feasible to focus on developing or strengthening only a limited number of standards.

The school-based standards provide both a performance benchmark and a practical process for program developers and delivery personnel to assess and strengthen the effectiveness of prevention initiatives. For a deeper understanding of each standard or to complete a more detailed self-assessment, consult the *Building on Our Strengths* workbook, which can be found at www.ccsa.ca under Topics, Children and Youth, Drug Prevention Standards.





Getting to Know the Standards

| Phase | Standards |
|--|---|
| A. ASSESS <i>the situation</i> | <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Account for current activities2. Determine local substance use patterns and harms3. Learn relevant protection and risk factors4. Clarify perceptions and expectations5. Assess resources and capacity to act |
| B. PREPARE <i>a plan and build capacity</i> | <ol style="list-style-type: none">6. Ensure goals address priority harms and relevant factors7. Engage students in the situation8. Strengthen links with parents and other partners9. Conduct ongoing professional development and support10. Address sustainability of the initiative |
| C. IMPLEMENT <i>a comprehensive initiative</i> | <ol style="list-style-type: none">11. Cultivate a positive health-promoting school climate for all12. Deliver developmentally appropriate classroom instruction at all levels13. Implement targeted activities within a comprehensive continuum14. Prepare, implement and maintain relevant policies |
| D. EVALUATE <i>the initiative</i> | <ol style="list-style-type: none">15. Conduct a process evaluation of the initiative16. Conduct an outcome evaluation of the initiative17. Account for costs associated with the initiative |

The Standards are part of *A Drug Prevention Strategy for Canada's Youth*, which aims to reduce illicit drug use by Canadian youth between the ages of 10 and 24. To find out more about the Standards initiative, please visit www.ccsa.ca or contact us at youth-jeunes@ccsa.ca.



ISBN 978-1-77178-161-9

© Canadian Centre on Substance Abuse 2014



Canadian Centre
on Substance Abuse
Centre canadien de lutte
contre les toxicomanies

The Canadian Centre on Substance Abuse changes lives by bringing people and knowledge together to reduce the harm of alcohol and other drugs on society. We partner with public, private and non-governmental organizations to improve the health and safety of Canadians.

Production of this document has been made possible through a financial contribution from Health Canada's Drug Strategy Communities Initiatives Fund. The views expressed herein do not necessarily represent the views of Health Canada.